

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 29459 121820Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 /065 W

----- 108569

R 121803Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5102

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 29459

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MARR, FR

SUBJECT: GISCARD INTERVIEW: NATO

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED BY LE FIGARO
NOVEMBER 12, GISCARD CONFIRMED FRENCH POLICY OF SEPARA-
TION FROM NATO INTEGRATED MILITARY COMMAND, BUT SAID
THAT FRANCE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN A CONFLICT IF ONE OF
ITS NATO ALLIES WERE SUBJECT TO AGGRESSION. HE ALSO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 29459 121820Z

SAID THAT IT MAKES GOOD SENSE FOR FRANCE TO PLAN WITH

NATO CONCERNING POSSIBLE ALLIANCE MILITARY ACTION IN WHICH FRANCE WOULD COOPERATE. FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW HAS BEEN SENT TO DEPARTMENT BY SEPTTEL. THIS CABLE CONTAINS INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF KEY STATEMENTS MADE BY GISCARD ON NATO. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO STATEMENT, "YOU ARE ACCUSED OF RETURNING TO ATLANTICISM . . .", GISCARD RESPONDED ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: ". . . IN 1966, GENERAL DE GAULLE TOOK THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW FRANCE FROM THE INTEGRATED ORGANIZATION OF NATO. WE WITHDREW FROM NATO. BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS DECIDED TO REMAIN WITHIN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. IT IS NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE AUTOMATIC CHARACTER OF FRANCE'S UNDERTAKING REGARDING ITS DEFENSE WAS A COMBINATION OF TWO FACTORS:

THE EXISTENCE OF AN ALLIANCE WHICH COMMITTED FRANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A CONFLICT -- UNDER THE HYPOTHESIS THAT AN AGGRESSION HAD BEEN COMMITTED AGAINST ONE OF THE MEMBERS -- AND THE EXISTENCE OF AN INTEGRATED MILITARY SYSTEM IN TIME OF PEACE. AS A RESULT, THE MILITARY FORCES WERE REGROUPED AND COMMANDED BY THE MECHANISM OF THE ALLIANCE. EVEN IN THE HYPOTHESIS WHERE FRANCE WOULD HAVE HAD A DOUBT ON THE POINT OF KNOWING IF IT FOUND ITSELF IN THE CASE FORESEEN BY THE CLAUSES OF THE ALLIANCE, THIS UNIFIED SYSTEM IMPLIED ITS PARTICIPATION IN ALL CONFLICT FROM THE MOMENT WHEN FIGHTING BROKE OUT. WE WITHDREW FROM THE INTEGRATED ORGANIZATION. WE HAVE REMAINED IN THE ALLIANCE; THAT IS TO SAY, IF THERE IS AN AGGRESSION AGAINST ONE OF THE MEMBERS, WE ARE PLEDGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFLICT. AND GENERAL DE GAULLE WAS PARTICULARLY CLEAR ON THIS POINT, WITH REGARD TO HIS 'GRANDS INTERLOCUTEURS.' IN NO WAY HAVE WE REJOINED THE INTEGRATED SYSTEM. THE ONLY THING THAT EXISTED BEFORE MY TIME, AND THAT WAS UNDERTAKEN AFTER 1967, WERE SOME TECHNICAL CONTACTS. THEIR PURPOSE IS TO EXAMINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN THE HYPOTHESIS WHERE THE ALLIANCE WOULD BE PUT INTO OPERATION, WHICH IS SIMPLY GOOD SENSE. . . . IT IS EVIDENT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT IF THERE WERE A CONFLICT WHICH FRANCE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN AS A MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE, IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR THIS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 29459 121820Z

HYPOTHESIS TO HAVE BEEN EXPLORED PREVIOUSLY. THE OPPOSITE WOULD BE AN IRRESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE."

3. COMMENT: WE ARE STRUCK BY THE "MATTER OF FACT" WAY IN WHICH GISCARD DESCRIBES CONTINGENCY PLANNING BETWEEN FRANCE AND NATO AS BEING "SIMPLY GOOD SENSE" AND HIS ASSERTION THAT A CONTRARY POLICY WOULD BE "IRRESPONSIBLE." HE IS, OF COURSE, CORRECT. NEVERTHELESS, HIS

FRANK PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT IS ONE MORE
INDICATION OF THE MORE PRAGMATIC AND NATURAL RELATION-
SHIP THAT GISCARD IS SEEKING TO BUILD WITH NATO AND TO
WHICH HE IS SEEKING TO CONDITION THE FRENCH PEOPLE.
RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS29459
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750394-0689
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751150/aaaabsni.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GISCARD INTERVIEW: NATO
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PORG, SOPN, FR, NATO, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006